

REMARKS

Claims 1-23 are pending in the application.

Claims 9-15 are allowed.

Claims 1, 4, 5, 8, 16-19 and 23 have been rejected.

Claims 2, 3, 6, 7, and 20-22 have been objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claims and any intervening claims.

Claims 2 and 20 have been cancelled without prejudice.

Claims 1, 3, 4, 9, 16, 17, 19, 21 and 22 have been amended, as indicated above.

The specification has been amended, as indicated above, to correct minor informalities.

No new matter has been added.

Claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by US 6,580,288 ("Klapproth"). Though not recited with the basis of rejection for Claim 1, the Office Action discusses the rejection of dependent claims 4, 5, and 8 under Klapproth. (OA at pp. 3-4).

Claim 16 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over US 5,402,014 ("Ziklik"). Though not recited with the basis of rejection for Claim 16, the Office Action discusses the rejection of dependent claims 17-19, and 23 under Ziklik. (OA at pp. 5-7).

Applicant has cancelled Claims 2 and 20 without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter, and amended Claims 1, 3, 16 and 21, rendering all pending rejections against Claims 1, 4, 5, 8, 16-19 and 23 moot. Applicant respectfully reserves the right to re-present the subject matter of now cancelled Claims 2 and 20 in a subsequently-filed continuation patent application.

Applicant notes with appreciation the allowance of Claims 9-15.

Claims 2, 3, 6, 7, and 20 - 22 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The Applicant has submitted amended Claims 1, 3, 16 and 21 accordingly.

As a result of the foregoing, the Applicant respectfully submits that in addition to Claims 9-15, that Claims 1, 3-8, 16-19 and 21-23 are in condition for allowance, and respectfully requests an early allowance of such Claims.

If any issues arise, or if the Examiner has any suggestions for expediting allowance of this Application, the Applicant respectfully invites the Examiner to contact the undersigned at the telephone number indicated below or at *ksmith@texaspatents.com*.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees connected with this communication or credit any overpayment to Garlick Harrison & Markison Deposit Account No. 50-2126.

Respectfully submitted,

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